

Achieving Our Future, Making a Difference

Implementing This Strategic Plan

Developing this *Strategic Plan* is only the first step of our effort. To be successful, we must execute this *Plan* to its full extent. We will develop an implementation plan that sets priorities, assigns clear responsibility and deadlines, and commits resources to carry out the actions described in this *Plan*. This implementation plan will be specific as to how and when we will move from our current state to the organization we envision and intend to be.

We will implement this *Plan* on both the national and local levels, taking steps to ensure that the actions are completed and that our objectives are achieved. In implementation, the *Strategic Plan* will be a key component of all of our planning processes, thereby ensuring that we provide both the resources and attention to the commitments that we have made in the *Plan*. The goals of: (1) supporting the Agency; (2) high-performance; (3) scientific leadership; (4) integration; and (5) anticipating the future will be used to frame our research planning and prioritization, as well as our resource allocation and workforce planning.

We see the *Strategic Plan* as having far-reaching effects on our organization, infusing itself into all aspects of our operation. As such, we will also ensure that each level of the organization is aware of and is fully participating in achieving our goals. Each organization's management team will be responsible for evaluating how best to incorporate the tenets, goals, objectives, and actions into their organization's activities.

To measure and assess our progress toward achieving our goals, we will regularly track the measures of success that we have included in the *Plan*. We will use this information to evaluate what is working and what needs improvement, and make adjustments accordingly. As necessary, we will revisit our objectives and actions in light of our progress and changing external circumstances. Moreover, we will communicate our

progress regularly to our customers and stakeholders and learn from them and other organizations how we might improve implementation of this *Plan*. In so doing, we will hold ourselves accountable to our customers, stakeholders, and each other for achieving our goals and future success.

The Future We Seek

Successfully achieving the goals of the *Strategic Plan* will mean an organization where:

- Our close relationships with EPA's program and regional offices allow us to assess and anticipate their needs and collaborate to provide scientific research and technical assistance to achieve greater environmental protection;
- Investment in our workforce and organizational processes has led to a staff who are motivated, trained, and equipped in their work to achieve the best results;
- Our leadership capabilities and accomplishments are recognized by providing world-class science, being influential in the development of a national environmental research agenda, and being at the cutting edge of proactive environmental protection;
- Our capacity to integrate across all aspects of a problem provides comprehensive solutions to complex problems; and
- Our ability to anticipate and provide solutions to future environmental issues before their adverse effects are widely known or detected averts potentially dangerous or expensive environmental problems.

This is the future we seek and the commitment we make to achieve this vision.